

MEDIA SPOOLER SYSTEM AND METHODOLOGY PROVIDING EFFICIENT  
TRANSMISSION OF MEDIA CONTENT FROM WIRELESS DEVICES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A media spooler system is described that provides a methodology for efficient transmission of media content from client devices, such transmission of digital images from wireless digital cameras. The media spooler or gateway addresses wireless transmission problems by acting as a protocol gateway between a thin-client device and a target host or server (supported by a server infrastructure). More particularly, the media spooler of the present invention acts as a protocol gateway between thin-client devices (e.g., "mobile visual communicator" in the form of a wireless digital camera) and server infrastructure (e.g., server-based computer systems or "Web servers" of a photographic service provider). This task entails accepting multiple, simultaneous connections from various client devices (e.g., wireless digital cameras), extracting information from those devices (e.g., digital photographs or other media content), and then uploading that information to the target server infrastructure. In basic operation, the media spooler queries each client device for the information (e.g., media, such as pictures) the client device thinks should be uploaded, and then the media spooler queries the server infrastructure for the subset of pictures that have not been already uploaded. This improved coordination or synchronization of information between a device and target host allows for efficient recovery of dropped cellular data calls by essentially allowing the media spooler to "pick up where it left off."